

down, and had the appearance of being powdered. The egg of this Quail is of a pale buff colour, 1 inch and  $\frac{1}{10}$ th in length, by  $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of an inch in width.

I take this opportunity of bringing to the notice of the members of this Society distinguishing marks between the Rock Quail and the Grey and Black-breasted Quail, and of proposing that the former species should not be confounded with the two last. The distinguishing marks of the former, the Rock Quail, are the stoutness and depth of the beak in proportion to its length, the much more rounded form of the wing, the secondaries and tertials being much more equal in size with the primaries than those of the Grey and Rain Quail; the much more defined scaly protection of the legs and feet in the Rock Quail, and what I believe the most distinguishing mark, the smaller number of eggs laid by the Rock Quail. I believe that the Grey and Rain, or Black-breasted Quail, lay *eight or nine eggs*, the Rock Quail not more than *four*.

#### BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

December 13th, 1855.—Professor Balfour, President, in the Chair.

Colonel Madden was elected President for the ensuing year.

A considerable number of foreign botanists were elected Hon. Members.

The following papers were read :—

1. "Report on the State of the Society's Herbarium." By the Curator.

2. "Notes of a Botanical Trip to Ben Lawers and neighbouring Mountains in August 1855." By Prof. Balfour.

This appears to have been a very successful trip. It was stated that the alpine plants flowered remarkably well in the summer of 1855. Amongst the plants found may be mentioned *Polypodium alpestre* and *P. flexile*, and *Cystopteris montana*. The latter grew in a different place from that where Mr. W. Wilson originally detected it. Mr. J. Backhouse has recently gathered it in Caenlochan Glen, in Forfarshire.

3. "Report on Musci collected during the same trip." By Dr. Greville.

4. "Additional List of Mosses." By Mr. W. Nichol.

5. "On the rare Lichens of Ben Lawers." By Mr. H. Macmillan.

6. "List of Desmideæ." By Mr. H. G. Stewart.

7. "List of Diatomaceæ." By Prof. Gregory.

8. "Geological Notes." By Mr. Hector.

The above-enumerated papers, 2-7, all relate to the results of the same trip, and argue well for the attention paid by Dr. Balfour's

party to the more obscure tribes of plants. They are little more than lists of names, and do not admit of abstract.

9. "Notice of some of the contents of the Museum in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden." By Prof. Balfour.

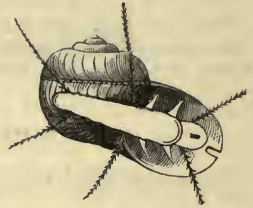
### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Memorandum on the Animal of Scissurella crispata.*

By LUCAS BARRETT, F.G.S.

TENTACLES long, serrated, at the base of which are placed the eyes; foot furnished with two pointed lappets and two long slender serrated cirri on each side. Operculum very thin, ovate, with an obscure subspirial nucleus.

No part of the animal was external to the shell. The only living specimen occurred at Hammerfest, in 40 to 80 fathoms' water. When it was placed in a glass of sea-water, it crawled up the side and scraped the glass with its tongue. After immersion in spirit it became inky-black.



*Notes on the Marine Fauna of Weymouth.*

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History.*

Weymouth, Jan. 23, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to record the occurrence of *Squilla Desmarestii* at Weymouth as follows:—

In the autumn of 1851, a specimen was brought me that had been dredged in Weymouth Bay, near Portland. It measured  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is in my cabinet.

On the 22nd December, 1855, I picked up one alive on Melcombe Sands. We had previously had several days of heavy gales from the eastward. This specimen, though alive, had been so long out of the water that it did not recover.

A third specimen was procured by my man on the 1st January, 1856. It was dredged in Weymouth Bay, in twelve fathoms' water. The bottom was of pebbles, and also live and dead *Pecten opercularis*. In my man's phraseology, it was a "pebbly and squinny bottom, with a lot of live squins." *Pecten opercularis* are here called Squins.

This specimen, I am happy to say, is now lively and well, and will enable me to give some information as to its habits. I have as yet only tried it with a pebbly and shingly bottom, and am therefore not in a position to write certainly as to its burrowing habits. I have satisfied myself as to its mode of progression, and can state that its tail is *not* used for that purpose, but solely as a *defensive* weapon. I hope shortly to complete my paper on its habits.